Numb. 6165

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday May 18. to Tuesday May 21. 1723.

Whitehall, May 20.

ON the 9th Inſtant the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh, and choſe for their Moderator Mr. James Smith. His Majeſty's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Hoptoun was read, as was likewiſe His Majeſty's moſt Gracious Letter to the Aſſembly. His Majeſty's High Commiſſioner made a Speech to the Aſſembly, which was anſwered on their Part by the Moderator; and a Committee being appointed, drew up the following dutiful Anſwer to His Majeſty's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE humbly beg Leave to acknowledge with the greateſt Thankfulneſs, the Honour of your Majeſty's moſt gracious Letter to us, which is the more obliging, that your Majeſty is pleaſed in your great Goodneſs, to take Notice of the Loyalty and good Affection of former Aſſemblies; and to give your Royal Countenance to our Meeting at this Time: We ſhould be altogether unworthy of your Majeſty's Royal Favour, if we did not endeavour the ſame prudent and dutiful Behaviour in this, which your Majeſty does obſerve to have been conſtantly manifeſted in our preceeding Aſſemblies.

It is Matter of great Joy to us, that your Majeſty is pleaſed graciouſly to renew your repeated Aſſurances, that you will promote the Intereſt, and inviolably maintain the Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland, as it is by Law eſtabliſhed.

We eſteem it our great Happineſs, that we have a Sovereign upon the Throne, who uſes his earneſt Endeavours towards the promoting of true Religion, and the diſcouraging Vice and Immorality, and ſhould be very much wanting to the Duty of our Stations, if we did not heartily concur therewith: And in order to the obtaining theſe deſireable Ends, we hope, we ſhall through the Divine Aſſiſtance, conduct ourſelves with that Spirit of Meekneſs and Unanimity, which becomes ſuch an Aſſembly.

The known Concern of the Earl of Hoptoun for this Church, as well as his Zeal for your Majeſty's Intereſt and Service, makes your Choice of him, to repreſent your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, moſt acceptable to us; and we cannot but look upon it, as a new Inſtance of your Majeſty's Royal Favour to this Church.

While with the greateſt Joy and Thankfulneſs, we reflect upon the remarkable Goodneſs of God, in preſerving your Majeſty from the late wicked and deteſtable Conſpiracy againſt your Perſon and Government; we earneſtly Pray, that the ſame gracious God may long preſerve your ſacred Majeſty, to reign a happy Prince over an obedient and dutiful People: May He make you more and more the Guardian of the Proteſtant Intereſt in Europe; may He ever preſerve your Royal Perſon from the ſecret Craft and open Violence of your Enemies; may He eminently bleſs their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, and their Royal Iſſue; and after He has long honoured your Majeſty to ſerve him upon Earth, may you be crowned with a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away; and may there never be wanting to theſe Nations, a Succeſſour of your Royal Line, who may inherit your Throne with your Royal Virtues. Theſe are, and ſhall be the fervent Prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful, moſt obedient, and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

James Smith, Moderator.

The following humble Addreſs of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, having been tranſmitted by the High Commiſſioner to his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe one of His Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, has by him been preſented to His Majeſty.

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble Addreſs of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE grateful Senſe of the Goodneſs of God in bleſſing us with ſuch a gracious Sovereign, and the Duty and Loyalty toward your Majeſty, which ſo juſtly fill our Hearts, oblige us to ſhew the deepeſt Concern for every thing that affects the Safety of your Majeſty's Perſon and Government: And therefore, though with the greateſt Satisfaction, we do underſtand, that the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly did, according to their Duty, preſent an humble Addreſs to your Majeſty upon Occaſion of the happy Diſcovery of the late horrid Conſpiracy, which Addreſs we heartily approve, as expreſſing the moſt ſincere Thoughts of our Minds; yet we cannot omit laying hold of this firſt Opportunity of our meeting in a General Aſſembly, to declare, in the moſt publick and ſolemn manner, our utmoſt Deteſtation of that moſt wicked and execrable Deſign, and to expreſs our great Joy, that it hath pleaſed God to aſſiſt your Majeſty in making a ſeaſonable Diſcovery thereof.

A Deſign ſo bloody and deteſtable in it ſelf, and ſo pernicious and fatal in its Conſequences, raiſes in our Hearts the greateſt Horror and Indignation. We have for a long Time obſerved with Aſtoniſhment the reſtleſs and impudent Malice of your Enemies, endeavouring to miſrepreſent your Majeſty's juſt and gracious Adminiſtration, in order to diffuſe their own Diſaffection to your Perſon and Government into the Minds of others of your Majeſty's unwary, though well-meaning Subjects. With this View have they charged upon your Reign theſe Evils to which none but